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How The Law Applies to Me If...

I AM A SUSTENANCE HUNTER OR TRAPPER

The *Firearms Act* brings about changes that will affect firearms owners and users.

This fact sheet is of interest to you if:

- you hunt or trap as a way of life in order to sustain yourself or your family.

WHO IS A SUSTENANCE HUNTER?

If you hunt or trap as a primary means of providing food or earning income to sustain yourself or your family, you may qualify as a sustenance hunter.

The Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) of your province or territory will determine if you meet the criteria to qualify as a sustenance hunter. Call our Enquiries Centre at 1-800-731-4000 to get your CFO's phone number.

GETTING A FIREARMS LICENCE

Licences for all firearms users, including sustenance hunters, will be available starting December 1, 1998.

Adults, 18 years of age or older, will choose between two types of licences:

- a "possession-only" licence (if you already have firearms and don't plan to get any more); or
- a "possession and acquisition" licence (if you wish to acquire firearms in the future).

Your firearms licence will identify which class or classes of firearms you can possess or acquire (i.e., non-restricted, restricted, prohibited).

Before you can get a licence to acquire firearms, you must:

- successfully complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) and test; or
- challenge and pass the CFSC test; or
- be alternately certified by your CFO.

For more information, contact your CFO.

Adult firearms licences must be renewed every five years.

Minors, 17 years of age and under (no minimum age), can apply for a minor's sustenance licence. This is a possession licence for non-restricted firearms only (i.e., rifles and shotguns). With this licence, minors can use a long gun for the purpose of hunting or trapping in order to sustain themselves or their families. This licence does not allow the minor to acquire (buy or receive as gifts, inheritances or in trade) firearms.

If you meet the criteria to qualify as a minor sustenance hunter (as determined by the CFO of your province or territory), you will not have to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

Fees will be waived for any sustenance hunter getting a firearms licence to use non-restricted firearms.

Prohibition Orders and the Canadian Firearms Safety Course

If you have been prohibited, by court order, from possessing firearms, you will have to take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course **and** pass the test before applying for a firearms licence. (The prohibition order must have expired before you apply.)

This rule applies even if you took the CFSC and passed the test before your prohibition. It also applies even if you were not required to take the CFSC to get your FAC or firearms licence in the first place (i.e., if you had a possession-only adult licence or a minor's sustenance licence).

REGISTERING YOUR FIREARMS

Registration of firearms will begin on December 1, 1998. Only people who are 18 years old or older may register firearms. This means that after January 1, 2003, any firearms used by a minor sustenance hunter (17 years of age or under) must be registered to an adult who has a valid firearms licence. A registration certificate will be issued for each firearm that you own. It is valid for as long as you own that particular firearm.

Whenever you lend your firearm to another person, you must also lend the registration certificate unless the borrower uses the firearm to hunt or trap in order to sustain himself or herself or his or her family.

Fees will be waived for licensed sustenance hunters registering their non-restricted firearms.

STORING YOUR FIREARMS

Safe storage rules apply to all firearms. When storing your non-restricted rifles and shotguns, you must ensure that they are always stored:

- **unloaded;**
- **unable to be fired** by using a suitable, secure locking device or by removing the bolt or bolt carrier or by locking firearms in a sturdy, secure container or room that cannot be easily broken open or into; and
- **in a place where ammunition for the firearms is not easy to obtain.** (If you are storing your firearms in a sturdy, secure container or room, you can store your ammunition in the same container.)

Non-restricted firearms need only be **unloaded** when stored in remote wilderness areas.

COMING INTO FORCE

The *Firearms Act* is being phased in from December 1, 1998 to January 1, 2003.

INFORMATION

For more information, or to order a copy of the *Firearms Act*, its regulations, application forms and other CFC publications, contact us at:

1-800-731-4000 (Toll Free)

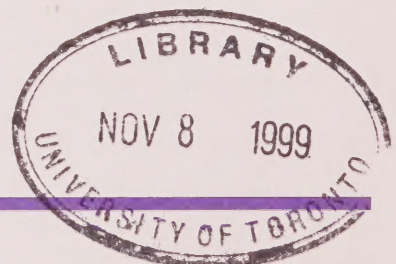
Web site: www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca

e-mail: canadian.firearms@justice.x400.gc.ca

This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. For legal references, please refer to the *Firearms Act* and its regulations.

Provincial, territorial and municipal laws, regulations and policies may also apply. Contact your Chief Firearms Officer.

Le présent feuillet d'information est également disponible en français.





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